

decade. It was one of those things which happen, no one knows exactly how. It is proper to say that the same mistake will not be repeated.

THE NUMBERS of the GAZETTE for 1885 were mailed on the following dates: 1, Jan. 8; 2, Feb. 14; 3, Mar. 14; 4, April 24; 5, May 19; 6, June 4; 7, July 11; 8, Aug. 11; 9 and 10, Oct. 7; 11, Nov. 11; 12, Dec. 20.

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## OPEN LETTERS.

### Reverchon's Texan Ferns.

I have received from Mr. Reverchon a set of the ferns recently collected by him in South-Western Texas, and find, among other desirable species, such rare ferns as *Pellaea aspera*, *Pellaea flexuosa*, *Pellaea Wrightiana* (typical form), *Notholæna candida* and *Aneimia Mexicana*, well represented.

The specimens are well selected, and in every respect excellent.

As some of these species have long been a desideratum to botanists, they will be glad to know that there is now an opportunity to secure specimens from a collector whose reputation is so well known.

With the ferns came specimens of *Selaginella apus*, two forms of *S. rupestris* and *Marsilia macropoda* A. Br. The specimens of the last being more villous than those which I had formerly received from Mrs. Young, I was led to look upon them as a possible large form of *M. vestita*, and I am indebted to the kindness of Prof. Eaton for a more accurate determination.

Medford, Mass.

GEO. E. DAVENPORT.

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### A Glue for the Herbarium.

It may interest certain old-fashioned botanists, who in these progressive days still find an interest in herbaria, to know that carriage-glue is an excellent medium for mounting. It is always ready, and one dispenses with the intolerable nuisance of a water-bath. Work which accumulated on my hands to a formidable amount I have been able to quickly and surely discharge by its employment. The glue, which is a semi-fluid, easily thinned by water, comes in tin cans of various sizes, and prices from 30 cents upwards. Given the glue, the curator has then only to provide the small boy to apply it.

Brown University, Providence, R. I.

W. W. BAILEY.

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### De profundis.

A curator of a museum is often placed in a predicament. I am convinced from considerable experience, that connected with every *young* herbarium, at least, there should be an underground railway for the transportation of trash to some Botany Bay. I can not always afford to smilingly bow off a benefactor that offers me a daisy from the grave of Burns, or a sprig of ivy from Kenilworth. In his way he means well, and it might be hard to convince him that scientific interests and those of sentiment may not always coincide. He may, too, be one of the persons back of the academic throne, and hence, as hinted above, the curator must be receptive and bland. But, then, must he not, of necessity, shelve some of these odds and ends?

Again, why are givers, especially botanists, so blind to the best interests of science, as to insist on special cases for their own collections? A herbarium should be continuous and connected. It is exasperating when one wishes to consult things in sequence, to be compelled to hunt through three or four separate collections. Still again, and my cry is from a personal pain, why may